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COUNTRY Guatemala

SUBJECT Lombardo Toledano Meeting with Guatemalan Labor Leaders

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1. During his passage through Guatemala on 22 January en route to the Paris convention of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), Vicente Lombardo Toledano, Mexican labor leader of the CTAL, met briefly at the airport several important Guatemalan labor leaders. They included Jose Manuel Fortuny, congressional deputy and Partido Accion Revolucionaria (PAR) leader, Manuel Pinto Usuga, congressional deputy and Comité Nacional de Unidad Sindical leader, and Professor Humberto Ortiz, propagandist for the Confederacion de Trabajadores Guatemaltecos and congressman-elect on the PAR ticket.
2. Lombardo stated in part what his objectives would be at the Paris conference. He stressed the importance of a united Latin American front to withstand North American pressure to force withdrawal from the WFTU. He also emphasized the necessity of strengthening the Latin American labor movement, through such organizations as the various Committees for Peace and Democracy. Lombardo's final advice to Guatemalan workers was to modify their demands to the government in the pending Puerto Barrios dock labor dispute, since he felt that Guatemalan labor could not afford a show-down fight at this time.

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